

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MAIL PROCESSING NETWORK
RATIONALIZATION SERVICE CHANGES, 2012

Docket No. N2012-1

INTERROGATORIES OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO
TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
(APWU/USPS-13-16)
(February 23, 2012)

Pursuant to Rules 25 through 28 of the Rules of Practice, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO directs the following interrogatories to United States Postal Service.

Instructions and Definitions applicable to these Interrogatories are contained in the Interrogatories of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO to the United States Postal Service witness David E. Williams (APWU/USPS-T1-1-4), filed on December 22, 2011, and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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APWU/USPS-13 Please refer to the response to APWU/USPS-T13-1, dated February 10, 2012, redirected from USPS Witness LaChance to the Postal Service for an institutional response.

- a) In areas that lose their mail processing facility as a result of an AMP, will customers be permitted to still have their mail cancelled with the local postmark?
- b) If so, how, is this accomplished? Please specify the type of location (i.e. Post Office, etc.) the grade and title of employee(s) responsible and the machine(s) used.
- c) If customers are permitted to have their mail locally cancelled after the loss of the mail processing facility, how long does this option remain available to customers?
- d) Are customers charged for this service?
- e) Will all of the options for getting mail locally cancelled remain after full implementation of Network Rationalization? If not, how will the options change?
- f) In these situations, will mail be cancelled with the local postmark via the all-purpose date stamp? If so, isn't the intended use of that stamp for receipts, registered mail and bank deposits according to Section 6-11.3.2 of the PO 209?
- g) If the mail piece is hand stamped, what will it say? If canceled at a station or branch will the cancelation name the station or branch or the city?
- h) If this is not done via the all-purpose date stamp are the costs of using mechanical postmark equipment included in the cost of the AMP? If so, where is this information recorded?
- i) If this is not done via mechanical postmark equipment, what manual postmarks are to be used and where will they be used? If the Post Office has more than one facility, would there be a need for multiple stamps unless a manual operation was created for postmarking? Are these costs included in the AMP? If so, where is this information recorded?

APWU/USPS-14 Please refer to the response to APWU/USPS-T13-1 and 2, dated February 10, 2012, redirected from USPS Witness LaChance to the Postal Service for an institutional response which references POM Section 312. Are postmarks available in areas that lose their mail processing facilities outside of the process detailed in POM Section 312?

APWU/USPS-15 Please refer to the response to APWU/USPS-T13-1 and 2, dated February 10, 2012, redirected from USPS Witness LaChance to the Postal Service for an institutional response which references POM Section 312.

- a) When a customer seeks to have "significant mail volumes (50 or more pieces)" postmarked, please describe the "adequate resources" required.
- b) Is there a limit on the number of pieces in excess of 50 that can be locally cancelled under POM Section 312?
- c) If a mailer sought to have a mailing consisting of 1,000 pieces cancelled with the local postmark in an area without a processing facility, what steps would the mailer

- have to take to get the local postmark on the entire mailing? How long would this take? What would the Postal Service have to do to satisfy the mailers request?
- d) POM Section 312 does not address the costs of providing this service, are there any fees, nominal or otherwise, associated with this service?

APWU/USPS-16 Please refer to the response to APWU/USPS-T13-4, dated February 10, 2012, redirected from USPS Witness LaChance to the Postal Service for an institutional response. In subpart (a) APWU inquired about the discounts that would be provided to mailers in the event they dropped mail at a BMEU that remained after the closure of the processing facility. The Postal Service responded:

As the network is transitioned, mailers will be permitted to drop their mail at BMEUs that remain in an impacted facility. In this situation, mailers will continue to receive the same discounts. Future pricing decisions will be made subsequent to finalization of network changes.

- a) Please confirm that this response means that discounts will be available to mailers who drop their mail at the BMEUs that remain after a processing facility is closed/consolidated.
- b) At what point will the transition of the network be deemed complete and the finalization of the network occurred?
- c) Will future pricing decisions regarding the discounts that are provided to mailers who drop their mail at BMEUs that remain at an impacted facility, be automatic or will the Postal Service present this for evaluation as a rate adjustment?
- d) In Issue 181 of the "Bulk Mail Acceptance Newsletter," dated October 27, 2011, the USPS has published the following:

It is the responsibility of the district In-Plant Support office to update the DMM Labeling Lists when a site is consolidated. This ensures that sites that are no longer processing mail will not be listed as Sectional Center Facilities (SCFs) and will ensure that mailers are aware that they cannot claim DSCF prices when depositing mail at these sites.

- i. Please reconcile the statement from the Bulk Mail Acceptance Newsletter which indicates that mailers will no longer be able to claim discounted rates when dropping mail at facilities that are no longer processing mail, with the response to APWU/USPS-T13-4 which states that the discounts will still be available in these situations.
- ii. How does the USPS inform mailers of this change in mail entry and the loss of DSCF prices when depositing mail at BMEU's that remain at an impacted facility?